

Serial No.: 09/988,016

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, as amended, remain herein.

Applicant appreciates the statements in the Office Action that claims 1 and 5-7 are allowed.

The Abstract has been amended.

Claims 1-7 have been amended for clarity and form.

Claim 8 depending from claim 3 has been added, reciting the means for urging each main electrode comprises a spring. See claim 3, as originally filed. Claim 9 depending from claim 4 has been added, reciting the device being for operation at a pressure higher than atmospheric pressure. See claim 4, as originally filed. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to exercise his discretion and enter these two additional claims, whose limitations have already been recorded and examined.

1. Objections were stated to claims 2-4. Each informality has been amended, thereby mooting those objections. Claim 2 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claim 3 has been amended to remove the terms "may", "may be" and "such as."

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Claim 4 has been amended to remove recitation of alternative conditions.

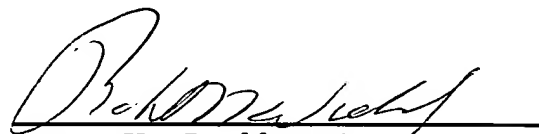
All claims 1-7 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 1-7 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicant would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicant's undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

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